

FROM USACOE EBRUNSWICK

Region 9

AIR FORCE PLANT 68 - MODEL CITY

NIAGARA COUNTY

APRIL 1998

On April 22, 1998, The Department sent comments to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on the 60% Design Supplement for the Interim Removal Actions. The supplement provides greater detail for the removal of Asbestos containing material on the Somerset Property and removes the Area A drum trench and Area B Burn pit area from the design of this phase of the IRA. This design was modified due to a reduction in funding for the project.

On April 30, 1998, Department Commissioner Cahill sent a letter to the Commander of the USACE North Atlantic Division expressing the Department's strong opposition to further delays in the implementation of the corrective actions at the facility. The Commissioner called for completion of the Interim Removal Actions By the end of the 1999 field season and requested a response within thirty days (May 30th).

MAY 1998

On May 6, 1998, staff received a summary of a February 6, 1998 meeting held between the USACE and its Contractor (EA) for the Proposed Remedial investigation (RI). Discussed at the meeting was a justification on the "ineligibility" of several area not proposed for inclusion as part of the RI. Several areas on the CWM owned property were not proposed for inclusion in the program because "the property owner has implemented corrective actions". The Department does not agree with this position and sent comments to the USACE on May 18, 1998.

On May 8, 1998, staff met with representatives of CWM and Somerset Group as the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works to discuss the property owner's concerns associated with the USACE's proposed corrective action programs.

On May 11, 1998, the Department sent extensive comments (13 pages) on the Draft Remedial Investigation (RI) work plan. Comments focused on the Analytical approach, sampling locations and strategy.

On May 14, 1998, staff traveled to Baltimore, Maryland to meet with USACE and EA to discuss comments on the Draft RI work plan and issues associated with the eligibility of site for investigation as part of the RI. The meeting was very productive and agreement was made on most issues.

On May 15, 1998, the Department received the 90 % Design for the Interim Removal Actions. Component 2, Phases 1 and 2. The design was submitted as the result of another funding reduction. Phase 1 involves the removal of miscellaneous chemical and oils from the Somerset Property and Asbestos abatement at one building. Phase 2 includes asbestos abatement at the remaining portion of the Somerset property. Only Phase 1 has been funded (\$500,000) by the USACE.

On May 20, 1998, staff attended a public meeting in Lewiston, New York presented by the USACE. At the meeting, USACE representatives stated that additional funding cut to the program were likely. The public did not feel that the USACE was responsive to the environmental concerns associated with the facility. Staff read a statement at the meeting opposing the continuing delays by the Federal Government in remediating the site, and calling for greater public involvement.

JUNE 1998


On June 4, 1998, the Department sent responses to the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on USACE responses to Department comments on the RI work plan. The comment responses were hand delivered at the May 20, 1998 public meeting. The Department still has serious reservations on the approach being pursued by the USACE in the investigation and remediation of this site. A response to the letter was requested within 14 days. A response has not yet been received.


Dave Browner: Is this old news?  
 Are there any issues at this site  
 currently pending  
 Jim Gibson

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 Staff repeatedly requested a schedule from the USACE for the remedial investigation field activities without receiving one.

 The Commissioner's letter of April 30, 1998, expressing the Department's strong opposition to the lack of initiative displayed by the USACE, has not yet been responded to by the USACE. A response was requested within 30 days (May 30, 1998).

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On June 18, 1998, staff received the "100% Design, Phases I and II Interim Removal Actions, Component 2 - Former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works" This submittal covers asbestos abatement and miscellaneous oils and chemicals removal on the Somerset Group property. Only Phase I has been funded.